



MILATARI NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Number 4

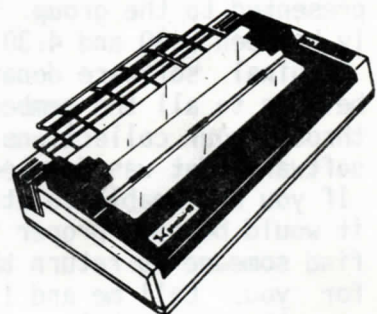
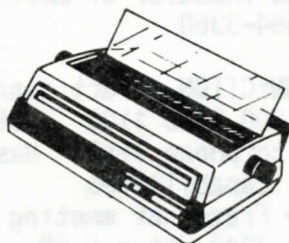
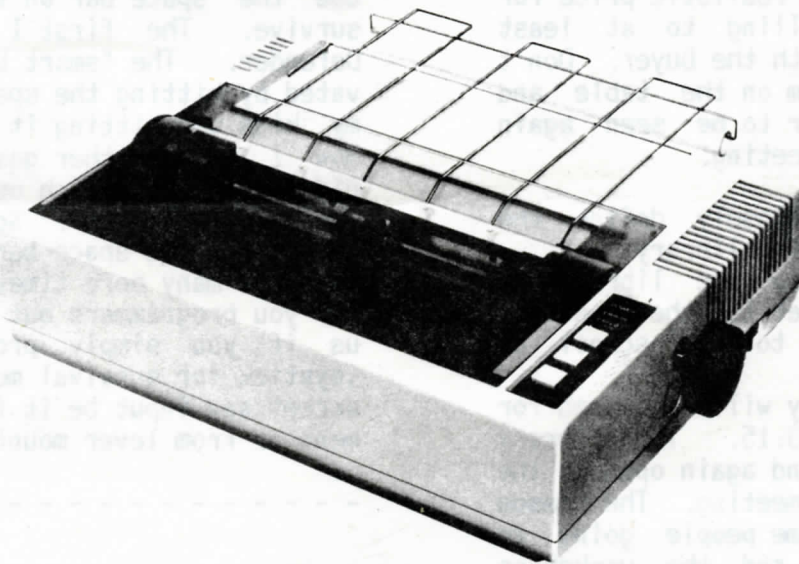
March 1984

Price \$1.50



MARCH IS PRINTER WORKSHOP MONTH

Starts at 2:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S RAM

by Gary Nolan

DID JYA' MISS ME??

(Watta ya mean, was I gone?)

You mean you didn't notice that this column was missing from last month's issue. You didn't get your newsletter until AFTER the meeting? I know some people who didn't get it until a week and a half after the meeting. Which brings me to two topics for discussion.

#1, who got their N/L late last month or consistently gets it late. We send out close to 300 N/L's every month, better than two thirds to the greater Milw./Waukesha area. And every month several people tell me that as of meeting day they still have not received theirs. The N/L as you know is sent bulk rate (except when Dave runs late). The cost between that and first class is a lot. If we could pin point any trouble areas it would help a lot. At the next meeting we will start a late newsletter list and try to get a handle on this problem.

#2, at the last CUF meeting the subject of a joint newsletter was brought up. What this would be is a monthly N/L of the CUF member groups. That would mean that you would not only receive this N/L but those of the other groups as well. Along with some articles about computers in general and local computer news. You would not be giving up any features of our newsletter but gaining new features. This would allow us to sell more advertising to help offset the cost. This whole idea will work only if YOU want it to. Think it over and let me know how you feel at the meeting. This is not something that is going to happen next month or even the month after. Something like this would take four to six months to bring together. Dave has volunteered to help put this together, IF. IF someone will take over the job as editor of this newsletter. And if the N/L's were combined the new editor would have A LOT LESS WORK. All the lay out of articles,

printing and mailing chores would be handled by the CUF N/L staff. The new editor would be responsible for gathering the contents for the Atari section. Sound good? See either Dave or myself at one of the meetings and we'll talk it over. If you would like to work on the CUF staff let us know also.

And for those of you who don't know who or what CUF is, CUF is the Computer Users Federation and it's made up of users groups from this area. All major brands of micro computers are represented and most groups in the area participate including MilAtari.

THE LINE FORMS AT THE LEFT

Those people who bought ATR8000's, or are thinking about buying one or own another system that runs CP/M, listen up. A CP/M SIG will be forming in the next month or so. Anyone interested is invited to give me a call, or if that fails or you can't get through, see me at the meeting. Most of the first group of buyers is interested so the core of a good group is there.

There's still time to volunteer to help at EXPOSIUM '84 to be held at MECCA, April 24, 25, 26. Those who do so will go to the Gala Event (PARTY) to be held at Hyatt Regency. The theme for this year's party will be "A Night In Las Vegas". You'll be given play money at the door and it's up to you to win enough to "buy" some prizes. More details at the March meeting. But don't wait until then, see last month's N/L for details. (If you didn't get yours yet call me, I'll fill you in) This is a national show with almost 200 exhibitors. Lots of people are needed. Tickets will be available at the next meeting, these get you into the show, NOT the party. As part of an attendance drive, CUF is taking part in a contest. The person who distributes the most tickets will win a \$30 certificate for dinner at an area restaurant. If MILATARI as a CUF member group distributes the most tickets and you as a MILATARI member distribute the most that are used, you win. But that as they say is the hook, the tickets

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

have to be USED to be counted. Tickets are FREE. If you show up at the door without one it's Five dollars. Nobody should have to pay. Take as many tickets as you want, on the "Compliments of" line put MILATARI and your Mem.# and go to town.

GOOD GRIEF I'VE LOST TRACK

Still another disk drive for Atari computers. This one's from Concorde Peripheral Systems, Laguna Hills, CA. Called the Enhancer it has two models. Model C-221M is double density and can supply power to three slave units and lists for \$359. A C-221S is DD and lists for \$249, it must be the slave unit.

HE'S MY HERO

(CAUSE HE'S SO BIG AND STRONG)

Gusdorf (the furniture people) are sponsoring a "Computer Hero" award. (Hey, reality is too interesting to make these things up folks) And they're asking user groups and societies across the country to nominate someone for this first annual award. The nominee should be someone who has "contributed to the improvement of society through the use and application of computers and computer technology." The award carries a \$2000 cash prize which will be presented at the Summer CES in Chicago this June. I have the "official" ballot which I'll bring to the meeting. If any member would like to nominate someone along those lines let me know. We have to return the ballot by April 30th.

RING-RING BEEEEEP *#&@!!?#, CLICK

We've been having problems with the BBS lately. Whether it's kids, mental midgets or immature adults we don't know. What we do know is that a few are going to ruin it for many of you. We have been receiving more than a few nuisance calls and have restricted access to the board to Atari computers. Those Atari computers that have communication programs that allow ATASCII codes to be sent, any AMODEM program is one type. So if you call and get cut off after hitting the return key, be patient we are working on a solution. If you're one of the few people who bought an

835 or 1030 modem that hooks on the serial buss and can't find any decent software, hold on. Amodem42.835 is available from ARCADE. There are also two programs on Compuserve if you can get to them. We may have the latter two in the library by the next meeting.

Any SYSOP of a BBS (ours is no different) puts a lot of time and effort into keeping the board going. Not to mention the verbal (message wise) abuse he puts up with. It's tough on both the man and his equipment and his efforts should not go unnoticed. So the next time you call the board think of Pete Kurth our faithful SYSOP. Thanks Pete!

BZZZZZZT-BZZT-BZZT-BZZZZZZZZZZT

Would you believe that the printer workshop is finally going to come off? Well how about a guy with a very large pen that writes real fast! The printer workshop really is going to take place this month. Anyone who would like to bring their printer in to show it off, do it. To save time print some demo sheets ahead of time. There will be a system and 850 available for those who have a special demo worked out. Those people who signed up at the Jan meeting should bring their printers. We do need more "letter quality" type printers, as we only have one lined up.

OOO, AAAH, GEEE, GOOLLY

Last month we gave a short teaser demo of the ATR8000. This month we hope to give a better in depth demonstration of its capabilities

NOW YOU SEE, NOW YOU DON'T

The latest disappearing act at Atari involves the CP/M module, at least that's the current rumor. You knew about the 1400XL being killed. That's not as big a loss as the CP/M will be, unless they bring out something to offer that capability. Waiting for "third party" sources to build the add-ons for the expansion slot could prove to be a disastrous move. Lets face it, the Ataris had the best features at the best price for a long time. But time marches on and waits for no one. There are other systems coming along to take

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

sales dollars away from you if you're just standing around. Now I don't expect Atari to introduce a product a month. But the CP/M unit was well received at the 83 SCES. WELL RECEIVED. Some of the computers that will be competing for the sales are the British Acorn, Apricot, Elan Enterprise (64 & 128) and a new "business computer" from Sinclair. And the Japanese are still to be heard from. And they will be heard from. As Jim Morgan, Atari CEO said "They're thoughtful. They're careful. When they come, they come methodically, they come well thought-out, and they almost challenge you to beat their quality with your speed."

AND THEN HE SAID.....

While on the subject of Jim Morgan. He has been the subject of two articles in the last month. One was the cover story of the Feb. 27th issue of InfoWorld and the other was an interview in the March issue of Antic. Both of these are a must for anyone wanting to know what Atari has in store for them in the future. Here are some of the more interesting ones.

When asked if he owned a home computer prior to coming to Atari he said, "I had not purchased a home computer because I couldn't answer the question, 'what will this do for me?'. I decided that there was nothing it could do for me other than word processing. Since I'm a businessman and have a secretary, I don't really need a word processor in the home."

Asked why he thought people bought home computers, he replied, "Number one is fear of not having one. Number two is the novelty. Number three is that manufacturers have sold them at such palatable prices that you can hardly afford not to experiment with one". He made a very important point when he said that, "I believe that it is incumbent on manufacturers to find real, tangible reasons why someone should consider a computer. Everybody talks about why someone should own one. I don't care about why people should own a computer; I care about why they should USE it". (I liked that one)

He said this about the "educational" uses. "Education is what's done to you. Learning is what you do for yourself.". "I think that Atari has an enormous role to play in the learning area. I question the degree to which Atari belongs in the big institutional educational area". "So I believe that what Atari has to do is stay very prominent in the learning area, and deal directly with the consumer in that area".

If he said one thing to Atari computer owners, what would it be. "Quite simply that Atari's in the computer business, and it intends to stay in the business. Our commitment is to continue to build computers and/or semi-dedicated microprocessors of the highest quality with the greatest relevance to their everyday life".

That theme is repeated in his answer to a question about Atari's future and its commitment to computers. "Without a doubt Atari is in the computer business to stay. There's no reason for us not to be. In my judgment, the home computer companies have not treated the consumers with the respect and consideration they deserve." "This industry is very challenging, and for someone to walk away right now, I think, would be crazy. The opportunity is too great. What it takes is imagination and guts." (Too bad Timex didn't hear that one)

I've left out a lot, but if this peaks your interest then pick up the March Antic, and try to find a Feb. 27th InfoWorld, and read them through once or twice. (I'm on my third time) There is a lot of insight into the thinking of the man at the top.

Nobody will agree with all his moves and decisions, but all in all I'm left with a positive impression of the man.

BUT.....

(YOU CAN'T HAVE ROSES WITHOUT A FEW THORNS)

Atari is kind of proud of its support of its user groups. But, as I go around to the other groups here in town, I become aware of how much support we really get. I visited an Apple group last week, and there was an Apple rep (not a dealer or distributor) there with

PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

two Macintoshs for demonstration and for the members to "play" with. The Sinclair group had much the same thing when the 2068 was released. Only Timex sent the groups president a unit to use ahead of the demo. The Kaypro group gets things like pens and coffee mugs and other things for their members on a somewhat regular basis. They also receive product information, press releases ect. on a regular basis. Other groups receive much the same attention from their manufacturers.

If Atari is serious about supporting its "fervent but small band of followers", to quote Infoworld. Then NOW is the time to show it. If Gentleman Jim is serious in his contention that the "home computer companies have not treated the consumers with the respect and consideration they deserve", then NOW is the time to rectify the situation.

The last I heard the UGS Division was staffed by TWO people. That's not a whole lot of commitment, to me.

True, something is better than nothing. But when that "something" is little or next to nothing, or arrives too late to be of much use, how good is it? I'm NOT blaming the two people in the UG support division. But just once I'd like to see someone from Atari (not a dealer or dist.) come to a meeting and give us an idea of what's going on in never-never land.

How about some product information? I know that Atari does arrange for some of the west coast and other "select" to groups get this kind of attention. West coast I can see, after all that's their backyard. But some of the smaller groups or some that are in the "hinderlands" would like some of that attention too.

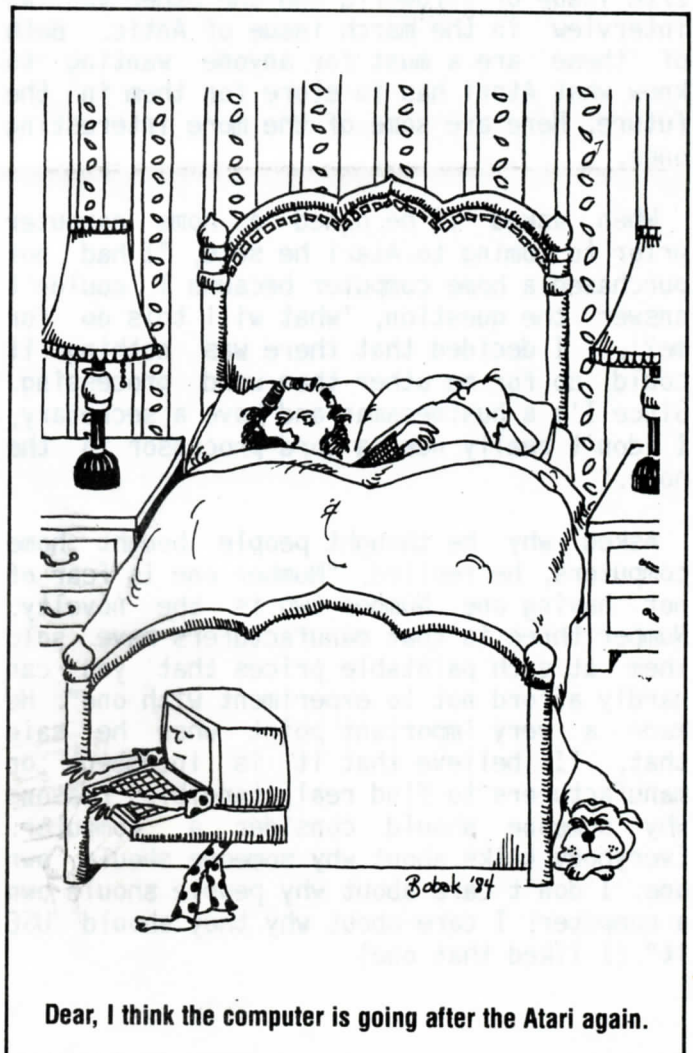
We are the people who had the foresight to buy computers (Atari computers). And we're not all "hackers", pirates or "techies". If you (Atari) expect us (the user groups) to do some of your "PR" work and handle some of your technical or equipment problem solving, then give us some help and attention.

CAMPAIGN '84

March is the month for the nominating to begin. Be at the March meeting to nominate someone for office or to volunteer for office yourself. This club can only continue to serve its members if the members will help themselves. And running for and serving in office is one way to help. Groups one tenth our size seem to be able to fill their elected offices, so from our 370+ members we should be able to find enough people to do the jobs that need to be done. The time to help is now. The way to do it is through the nomination/election process. The place will be at the March and April meetings. We would hope to solve a question of by-laws interpretation at the next meeting also.

BYE

See you on the 17th.....



Dear, I think the computer is going after the Atari again.



by Mike Yocum

(Peoria ATARI Computer Enth.)

This month, I would like to present to you, for your typing pleasure, the program that I showed you at our last meeting. This program, if you recall, converts character set files that you create with character set editors like Superfont (from Compute! magazine), Datasoft's Graphic Generator, and the like to BASIC DATA statements. For those of you who don't yet have a character set editor, there is one that looks pretty nice in this month's (February, page 72) A.N.A.L.O.G. magazine called Create-A-Font by Vince Erceg, although I haven't seen it run.

Why would you want to change your character set file to DATA statements? There are several reasons. Let's say that you have written a BASIC program with a redefined character set. Consider the "hassle" of having to load your character set in from disk or cassette every time you want to use it. With your set resident in DATA statements, you don't have to do this, and neither do any of your friends you've given your program to. In other words, it keeps your program in one piece, rather than two, which for all purposes is easier to deal with. This would also be a good approach for anyone who would want to perhaps submit their program for publication in a magazine or newsletter. This approach would also generally save disk or cassette space. If you believe, as I do, that changing this file data to DATA statements is a good idea, have you considered the job of translating this data from the file, and then typing it in? Believe me, it's a horrible job! You assembly language users are not totally left out in the cold, either. Use the program to translate your character set file to DATA statements, then list these out to disk. After this, enter your Assembler/Editor program (Mac/65 is my personal favorite) or text editor and do a global search and replace of the word "DATA" with the word ".BYTE". Are you beginning to get the picture of what a time-saver this little program is? Are you sold yet? Good!

The technique responsible for this "magic" is generally referred to as the "forced-read" mode of the screen editor. Using this technique, one is able to actually add/delete program lines to/from a BASIC program while it is running. This program works equally well in Atari BASIC and BASIC XL, and, with some modification, I'm sure it would work in Microsoft BASIC as well. There is one thing that I have noted, however, pertaining to using this program with BASIC XL. That is the fact that an error occurs if you try to use the "Fast" mode. I haven't thoroughly researched the problem, however it is directly related to use of the forced-read mode. I think that the problem is that in using the forced-read mode, the computer is looking for a line number to return system control to, and BASIC XL's Fast mode doesn't use line numbers, it uses direct memory locations for each line of code. Consequently, don't use the Fast mode if you're using BASIC XL. You'll also want to delete lines 320 through 380 and replace line 540 with this line:

```
540 Bget #1,Adr(Chset$),Size
```

This will allow you BASIC XL owners to use that language's own routine for speedy loading of data and cut down on some of the extra code. I originally wrote this program in BASIC XL and then translated it for Atari BASIC. To emulate the Bget statement, I used a machine language routine which I wrote, resident in Bget\$, that does the same thing.

I will be donating this program to the club's software library sometime in the future. If you absolutely cannot live without a copy (blush!) and can't bear the thought of typing it in (I can relate to that), perhaps I could run a copy off for you before that. I would like to thank Dave Stambaugh (a friend of mine and a member of the club who can't come to meetings presently because he's on second shift) for the inspiration for this program. Without any further ado, here is the program.

```
100 Rem *
110 Rem * Character Set File
120 Rem * To BASIC DATA Statement
130 Rem * Conversion Program
140 Rem * For Atari BASIC
150 Rem * by Mike Yocum
160 Rem * 3118 N. Prospect
170 Rem * Peoria, IL 61603
180 Rem * 309-688-1679
190 Rem * January 31, 1984
200 Rem * (compatible with most
210 Rem * character set editor
220 Rem * file formats such as
230 Rem * Superfont, Datasoft's
240 Rem * Graphic Generator,
250 Rem * and so on.)
```

```

350 Next X
360 Rem This is BGET$ data
370 Data 104,104,104,10,10,10,10,
170,104,157,69,3,104,157,68,3
380 Data 104,157,73,3,104,157,72,3,
169,7,157,66,3,32,86,228,96
390 Position 10,4:Print "Enter <1> for full set"
400 Position 11,5:Print "or <2> for half set."
410 Close #V1:Open #V1,4,V0,"K:"
420 Get #V1,Size
430 If Size<49 Or Size>50 Then 420
440 Close #V1
450 If Size=49 Then Size=1024:Position 13,6:Print
"Full set chosen.":Goto 470
460 Size=512:Position 13,6:Print "Half set chosen."
470 Dim Chset$(Size)
480 Chset$(V1)=Chr$(0):Chset$(Size)
=Chr$(0):Chset$(2)=Chset$
490 Position 2,8:Print " Enter the name of the
character set"
500 Poke 752,V0:Poke 702,64:Print " to be
converted: ";Input Name$
510 Device$="D:":Poke 752,V1:Print
520 If Name$(1,2)<>Device$ Then
Device$(3,Len(Name$)+2)=Name$:Name$=Device$
530 Trap 570:Close #V1:Open #V1,4,V0,Name$:Trap
40000
540 X=Usr(Adr(Bget$),1,Adr(Chset$),Size)
550 Close #V1
560 Goto 670
570 Close #V1:Position 9,11:Print "The file
";Name$
580 Print "is not on this disk. Insert the proper";
590 Print " disk and press <1> or press <2> to"
600 Print " try a different filename."
610 Close #V1:Open #V1,4,V0,"K:"
620 Get #V1,Choice
630 If Choice<49 Or Choice>50 Then 620
640 If Choice=49 Then Position 2,11: For X=V1 To
4:Print Chr$(156);:Next X:Goto 530
650 Position 2,11: For X=V1 To 4:Print
Chr$(156);:Next X:Position 2,8:Print
Chr$(156);Chr$(156);:Goto 490
660 Close #V1
670 If Size=512 Then Limit=32:Goto 690
680 Limit=64
690 Poke 752,V0
700 For Loop=V1 To Limit
710 Print Chr$(125)
720 Position 2,2
730 Print Line;" DATA ";
740 For X=V1 To 16
750 Print Asc(Chset$(X+Offset,X+Offset));";
760 Next X
770 Print Chr$(126)
780 Offset=Offset+16:Line=Line+10
790 Print :Print :Print "CONT"
800 Position V0,V0
810 Poke 842,13
820 Stop

```

```

830 Poke 842,12
840 Next Loop
850 Graphics V0:Poke 710,V0
860 Print "Data conversion is complete!"
870 Print "Your character set data ranges from"
880 Print "line number 30000 to ";Line-10;".
890 Print "These data statements may now be"
900 Print "LISTed to disk and ENTERed into your"
910 Print "BASIC program at a later time."
920 Print "To LIST these lines to disk, use the"
930 Print "following command:"
940 Print :Print "LIST ";Chr$(34);
"D:FILENAME.EXT";Chr$(34);",30000,";Line-10
950 Print :Print "Be sure to RESTORE the data
pointer"
960 Print "with a RESTORE 30000 command prior"
970 Print "to reading the character set data"
980 Print "from your program."
990 End

```

That's it for now. I'll see you at the meeting,
and be back next month.

MARCH MEETING

1:00 PM	Basic Class taught by Linda Scott
2:00 PM	Assembler Class taught by Erik Hansen
2:00 PM	Printer Workshop 8 different printers will be on display
3:15 PM	Business Meeting
4:15 PM	***** Demonstrations *****
	OSS Action language by Steven Hansen
	OSS Basic XL language by Dave Weir
	Ultama II by Mark Wently

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MILWAUKEE AREA ATARI USER'S GROUP

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Milwaukee Area ATARI User's Group (MILATARI), an association of individuals with a common interest in using and programming ATARI computers. MILATARI is not affiliated with the ATARI company or any other commercial organizations.

All articles are written and donated by the membership. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual author and do not necessarily represent, nor reflect, the opinions of MILATARI nor those of any other commercial or non-commercial organizations. Any article appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced, providing credit is given to the author and to MILATARI.

Your contribution of articles are always welcome. You may submit your article on ATARI compatible cassette, diskette, on typewritten form, or you can arrange with the editor to download your file via a modem at either 300 or 1200 BAUD. When submitting your article on cassette or diskette, please do not include any format control codes imbedded within the text. Deadline for articles is the last day of each month for inclusion on the next issue.

Write MILATARI NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 1191, Waukesha, WI 53187-1191 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Membership is open to individuals and families who are interested in using and programming ATARI computers. The membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to the clubs cassette, diskette and publication libraries.

There are 3 classes of memberships available. Associate, Individual and Family. Associate members can attend all club functions and may withdrawal materials from the club libraries. In addition to attending club functions and checking out materials from the libraries, Individual and Family members are entitled to vote in club elections and to hold elected position in the organization. The annual membership fees are \$10.00 for associate, \$15.00 for individual, and \$20.00 for the family membership. Members are expect to abide by the by-laws of the club. You may receive a copy of the by-laws by contacting the club secretary.

For more information on how to join MILATARI, please contact the membership committee.

MEETING INFORMATION:

MILATARI meetings are held once monthly. The meetings are currently being held at the Armbruster School, 7000 Greenway, Greenfield. (Off 68th Street, behind Southridge Shopping Center.) The date of the meeting is the third Saturday of each month. Doors are open at 2:00PM. An agenda of the next meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. For more specific details on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting, please contact the Vice President.

MILATARI Officers:

President	Gary Nolan	353-9716
Vice President	Chris Stieber	529-2663
Treasurer	David Frazer	542-7242
Secretary	open	
Education Committee	Linda Scott (Chairperson)	466-2314
	Joe Sanders (SIG Chairman)	447-1660
	Erick Hansen (Instructor)	252-3146
Cassette Librarian	Ron Friedel	354-1717
Disk Librarian	Bill Lawrence	968-3082
	Carl Mielcarek	355-3539
Publication Librarian	Marcus Hagen	445-0710
Membership Committee	Dennis J. Bogie	968-9341
	Sharon Gamache	421-2887
Newsletter Editor	David Frazer	542-7242
Bulletin Board SYSOP	Pete Kurth	355-6031(BBS)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT GROUP:

The following members have indicated a willingness to assist MILATARI members with programming and other related technical problems. Please be polite and do not call these members during meal periods or at very early or very late hours.

William Lawrence	Programming	1-968-3082
Don Wilcox	Programming	228-1650
Erik Hansen	Prog/Tech	252-3146
Steve Booth	Programming	367-8739
Nick Liberski	Prog/Tech	782-5594
David Frazer	Prog/Tech	542-7242

MILATARI BULLETIN BOARD:

The Milwaukee Area ATARI Users Group maintains a 24 hour bulletin board service. This board is designed for the use of our members and other ATARI users around the country. The BBS allows for upload and downloading programs and files, a public message board and club news. The board operates at 300 BAUD. The phone number is (414)355-6031.

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